



Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Labor Cabinet and Construction Companies Join National Safety Stand-Down on May 4-15

Workplace falls kill an average of six Kentuckians each year, seriously injure 4,000

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 27, 2015) – Next week, the Kentucky Labor Cabinet will join the National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction, which is designed to raise awareness among employers and workers about the hazards of falls. The stand-down runs May 4-15, and is a voluntary event for employers to talk directly to employees about protection against falls. Some of the companies that are participating include Aristeo; Dürr; Gray; Scott, Murphy & Daniel; and Walbridge.

“When you look at the statistics, you see the numbers -- but you don’t see the pain and suffering from all the friends and family members of each of these working people,” said Labor Cabinet Secretary Larry Roberts. “Thousands of Kentuckians are getting seriously hurt in falls every year, and that’s why every worker should be aware of the importance of fall prevention.”

Combining all industries, about six Kentucky workers die each year from workplace falls. On average, 4,085 workers are injured each year in workplace falls that result in days away from work.

Falls are the most common fatal hazard in the construction industry, accounting for approximately half the construction deaths in Kentucky. Of the 26 construction workers who died on the job in Kentucky from 2012-2014, 15 were because of falls.

To learn how to partner with the Labor Cabinet in this stand-down, visit www.labor.ky.gov and see the 2015 Fall Prevention banner. The page provides details on how to conduct a stand-down, be acknowledged for participation, and access free education and training resources, fact sheets and other outreach materials in English and Spanish. Companies that are participating in the stand-down are encouraged to click on the “[Stand Up and Be Recognized](#)” icon to register.

The Labor Cabinet’s Division of Education and Training will hold training sessions at various stand-down events in Kentucky during the next two weeks. Two of the sites include 3414 Collins Lane in Louisville on May 4 and the Champion Petfoods Kitchen Project at 12871 Bowling Green Road in Auburn on May 13. Safety consultants will be conducting hands-on presentations regarding personal fall protection. Free brochures and handouts will be available, and participants will be able to ask questions regarding fall protection.

The Labor Cabinet is working in conjunction with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s efforts to raise awareness for fall prevention. Each year in the United States, falls kill more than 200 construction workers and seriously injure 10,000 more.

For information on the national initiative, visit www.osha.gov/stopfalls. For more details on fall prevention, please visit www.stopconstructionfalls.com.

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The Kentucky Labor Cabinet’s primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth’s nearly 1.9 million wage-earning employees. The Cabinet, according to regulation, has the duties, responsibilities, power, and authority relating to labor, wage and hour issues, occupational safety and health of employees, child labor, apprenticeship, workers’ compensation insurance, and all other matters under the jurisdiction of the Labor Cabinet. For more information, visit www.labor.ky.gov.

